

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA

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MAINTENANT NOUS AVONS 5 ANS/NOW WE ARE 5

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January 1985. Northern Lambda Nord is five years old this month. This auspicious occasion will be observed Saturday, January 19, with an anniversary Ball in Black and White/Balle en Noir et Blanc. This gayla event will be held at the Caribou Country Club. During the evening, an award of appreciation, the first NLN has bestowed, will be presented to Martha Grant, Presque Isle attorney, for the support she has given to members of the lesbian-gay community of our region. There will be a cash bar plus door prizes. You are requested to dress appropriately in black and/or white.

The evening's events will be from 7 pm-1 am (Maine), 8 pm-2 am (N-B). Lambs will receive blue invitations. You will be asked to present this invitation at the door when you arrive. Invited guests will have pink invitations and are also requested to present them at the door. Since this is the first time in our five years that Lambda has held an event at a location other than a member's home, control over the door is important. Guests without invitations are welcome but they must be accompanied by invitation-holders.

Please note: (1) As is Lambda's policy, US and Canadian funds will be accepted at par at the door, (\$1 for members, \$6 for guests) but the cash bar belongs to the Country Club and will accept Canadian money at a discount (20-25%). (2) The Country Club is being rented in the names of individuals, not in the group's name; Discretion is requested when discussing the event with others. ▼

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In the last Communiqué a request was made for your written thoughts about our organization, with the intention that they would appear in this, our fifth anniversary issue. The request went almost totally unheeded. Here is the one item received:

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It takes balls to be a faerie in these remote regions. Lambda has taken a giant step out of the community closet and we all feel good about that. It was hard going for a while and the road is still a long one, but we're getting there, wherever "there" happens to be.

Having participated in the birth of the Lambs, we weren't sure how softly to step into the world, but we eventually went from what some of us thought would be a purely "social" group to one with a political and social commitment. These undertakings are generously balanced with a warm *joie de vivre* and a diversity of interests and backgrounds which makes each activity unique.

Visiting outlanders are often amazed at what we are accomplishing, but our guests frequently do not realize that the bulk of our achievements is due to the endless work of two or three individuals who merit our sincere thanks.

No organization can remain static; there is need for an on-going evolution. Without it one becomes fossilized. We are going through several changes in philosophy, changes primarily sparked by the martyrdom of Charles Howard. His *confrère*, Harvey Milk, unwittingly kindled a similar flame in San Francisco. In a word, we are starting to see the vast extended family of gays and lesbians. At the same time, we are seeing who our friends and foes are among the breeding population. I think it's called polarization.

AIDS (and-I'm-not-going-to-tell-you-what-the-letters-stand-for) has not



had a direct effect on any of our Lambs, but we have only geographic isolation to thank for that. As we read the horrifying statistics of AIDS in urban centers, we can only think "there but for fortune go you and I." Yet, this macabre catalyst also tends to bring us closer to our group.

On a personal note, I find that our regular gatherings and occasional trysts serve as a focal point for weekend plans. Despite unpleasant distances to drive and uncooperative weather conditions, going to a Lambs' frolic is like being with close family, an emotion that is psychologically both necessary and beneficial. Indeed, I am so much more relaxed now than I was five years ago, that I no longer use my fictitious name of Raoul. People are now addressing me by my real name. I hope that all of our members and guests feel equally comfortable in our midst.

Best wishes for the next five years, /s/ Vladimir ▼

#### ELECTIONS FOR NLN EXECUTIVE TO BE HELD JANUARY 27

Eight Lambs have been nominated for the six positions on the Executive Committee. They are: Tim (Littleton), Phil (New Sweden), Elaine (Caribou), Ros (Linneus), Dick (New Sweden), Stephen J. (Presque Isle), Thane (Limestone), and Norman (Grand Falls). Elections will be held at the January meeting. (Members, see enclosed calendar for location and food listing). ▼

#### UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISTS ARE NOT UNIVERSALLY GAY-SUPPORTIVE

On December 5, NLN formally requested the use of space in the Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church so that we may house our Gay Phoneline in Caribou. The church board of directors tabled the decision until January. A formal reply as not yet been received (as of January 6) but according to one member of the board (who happens to be the parent of a gayman), the board will say no. There are too many homophobic people in the Caribou UU church to agree to recommend to the general membership that they support our group. This is the second time in five years that we have requested support from the Caribou UU church (the first was for a space to meet once per month), and this is the second refusal. Despite the nationally-publicized reputation of the UU as being supportive of gay and lesbian people, this is not true for all UU churches. We were advised by that board member that eventually they will support us but it will take a very long time -- years. ▼

#### GRANT MONIES ALLOCATED - POLITICAL ALLIANCE

Six hundred dollars of the grant money will be spent on both self-help as well as community service. At the December general meeting final approval was given to spend \$200 to enroll every Maine member of NLN in the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, whose current objective is passage of the Maine "gay rights bill" in the spring. If you reside in Maine and did not fill out an Alliance membership form at the Christmas or New Year's parties, one is enclosed. Please fill it in and mail to ML/GPA, POB 108, Yarmouth 04096. **EVERYONE IS URGED TO ATTEND THE ALLIANCE'S FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Sunday, January 13, 1-5 pm, Jewett Hall Auditorium at the University of Maine/Augusta. The agenda includes: 1 pm - election of officers and steering committee; 2 pm - socialize, bag lunch; 2:30 pm - "Getting From Here to There: Learning to Love Lobbying", a workshop presented by a former member of the Maine Women's Lobby, Betsy Sweet. ▼

#### GRANT MONIES ALLOCATED - WOMEN'S SHELTER

The Battered Women's Shelter in Presque Isle will receive \$100 from NLN's grant. Initially, it was thought that improvements were needed on the physical building where the shelter was housed, i.e. repair windows, fresh paint. But it was learned since the December meeting that the Shelter has moved to new quarters. Their needs now include such things as some type of music system (radio), toys for young children, and others. A specific listing of needs is going to be obtained from the Shelter and then the \$100 used to purchase those items. ▼



One hundred dollars was approved for donation to the Pine Tree Legal Aid in Presque Isle, a legal help group for low-income people. It has been stipulated that the monies must stay in Presque Isle, not sent to any other Pine Tree office in Maine. A representative from Pine Tree Legal said she would have to check with the Portland office to get the OK on the money earmarked for just the County office. It was suggested that the money be spent to expand their legal library to include books on gays and lesbians and the law.

A fund has been set up with Presque Isle attorney Martha Grant, in the amount of \$200, which will be used for initial legal fees for lesbians and gaymen who use the services of her office. A growing number of women and men from our community have sought her help, some of whom cannot afford the costs. Though Pine Tree Legal is designed to help low-income people, their funding has been greatly reduced and with that the services they can provide. ▼

TAPETTE: UNE INSULTE ACCEPTABLE (Sortie, Montréal)

Le Conseil de presse de la Colombie-britannique a décidé que des journalistes de cette province avaient le droit d'utiliser le mot queer (tapette) pour parler des homosexuels. En rejetant une plainte contre le journaliste Gorde Hunter, du Times-Colonist de Victoria, le conseil de press déclarait que presque tous les journalistes offensent un groupe ou des individus quelconques à un moment donné mais que les lois sur le libelle étaient suffisantes pour les contrôler. Le Times-Colonist a reçu plusieurs lettres de plaintes contre Hunter et les a publiés dans sa page aux lecteurs. Quelle consolation! ▼

QUEER: AN ACCEPTABLE INSULT (Sortie, Montréal)

The British Columbia Press Council has decided that journalists in that province have the right to use the word "queer" when referring to gays. In rejecting a complaint against journalist Gorde Hunter of the Victoria Times-Colonist, the council ruled that almost all journalists offend some group or individuals at one time or another, and the laws dealing with libel are sufficient to deal with this. The Times-Colonist did, however, publish the numerous letters of complaint against Hunter on their letters page. ▼

NEW GAY CLUB IN NEW FOUND LAND

The Gay Association in Newfoundland reports that KATZ, a gay club in St. John's, has opened. The support of their community will mean the success or failure of this venture. KATZ is the second gay club in all of Atlantic Canada; RUMOURS is operated by Gay Alliance for Equality in Halifax. ▼

'CONSENTING ADULT' TO BE DRAMATIZED ON TELEVISION

The best-selling Laura Z. Hobson novel, Consenting Adult, will be broadcast Monday February 4 on ABC Television at 9 pm. This controversial book tells the story of a college student coming to terms with the realization that he is gay, his relationship with his parents and his coming out process. The made-for-TV movie stars Marlo Thomas, Martin Sheen, and Barry Tubb. Channel 8 in Presque Isle is committed to airing CBS programming on that night so unless you get the Bangor ABC station on cable, head for someone's house who does --- but DON'T MISS THIS ONE! ▼

SUMMER 85 - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN TORONTO

If you have the time and can get there, plan on being in Toronto June 30 through July 6 for the International Gay Association 7th Annual Conference and the International Conference on Lesbian and Gay History. This 7th conference of the International Association of Lesbians/Gay Women and Gay Men has been held in Europe five times and in Washington DC two years ago. A similar history conference was held in Toronto three summers ago. Three Lambs were at that conference, called "Doing It". They can assure you that Toronto people organized an excellent event and the presentations of papers and audio-visual shows about our history were well worth the trip. For more information on these conferences, literature is available in the Lambda office or you may write: IGA Conference, 105 Carlton Street.

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HALIFAX REPORT: AIDS BENEFIT DANCE (Metcalfe News Service, Halifax)

Halifax's newly-organized Gay Health Association sponsored a Benefit Dance for AIDS Awareness at Rumours on Sunday, November 25. More than a hundred people turned out to dance, view information videos and learn about the activities of the GHA. Organizers expressed satisfaction with the attendance at this, their first fundraiser, proceeds of which will go toward purchasing AIDS pamphlets from San Francisco.

About fifty people saw three videotapes: the PBS documentary, "Profile of an Epidemic", and two others produced by the AIDS Committee of Toronto and written by Michael Riordan, "AIDS: A Guide for Health Care Workers" and "AIDS: After the Fear". Some guests enjoyed a rousing game of Gay Monopoly, while organizers passed out leaflets on risk reduction. Rumours staff donated their time and their tip money to the GHA. ▼

# Our Paper

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LESBIANS ELECTED IN WEST HOLLYWOOD AND VANCOUVER (Gay Community News/Boston; GO Info/Ottawa)

Only 23 days after becoming a city, West Hollywood, California chose a lesbian city council member as mayor. Three of the five recently-elected council members are openly gay; the city's mayor is chosen by this council which unanimously chose Valerie Terrigno, who received the highest number of votes in the November 6 election for city council. The council has since passed an anti-discrimination ordinance based on sexual orientation, prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment and which will apply to the city and city contractors.

Sue Harris, membre active de la communauté gaie de Vancouver, a été élue à la Commission des parcs de Vancouver lors des récentes élections municipales. Harris est la première femme politique ouvertement gaie à être élue au gouvernement municipal de Vancouver. Sue Harris s'était présentée sous la bannière du Committee of Progressive Electors (COPE), coalition municipale de centre-gauche qui a remporté trois des sept sièges de la Commission des parcs et la majorité des sièges du Conseil scolaire de Vancouver. Ces victoires constituent un gain pour le COPE par rapport aux dernières élections et un signal pour les créditistes qui dirigent la province que les citoyens de Vancouver ne sont pas satisfaits du gouvernement provincial. Mike Hartcourt, le maire de Vancouver, a également été réélu. Harcourt s'était, dans le passé, prononcé en faveur des gai-e-s.

Sue Harris, an active member of Vancouver's gay community, won a seat on the Vancouver Parks Board in the recent municipal election. Harris is the first openly gay politician to be elected to Vancouver's municipal government. The



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Committee of Progressive Electors (COPE) ran Harris as a member of their citywide slate. Cope, a left-of-centre coalition, won three of the seven seats on the Parks Board and a majority of the seats on the Vancouver School Board. These wins represent gains for COPE from the last election and a signal to the Secreds that the people of Vancouver are not happy with the provincial government. Mike Harcourt, the mayor of Vancouver, was also re-elected. Harcourt has taken a pro-gay stance in the past. ▼

#### MAINE LESBIAN/ GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION PLANNED

For over 15 years, lesbian-gay pride celebrations have occurred throughout North America as well as other nations world-wide. Now it's time to celebrate in Maine. The Gay People's Alliance of the University of Southern Maine/Portland, is holding a planning meeting Thursday, January 31 at 6:30 pm in their office at 92 Bedford Street, Portland. If you'd like more information, contact them at: GPA, USM, 92 Bedford Street, 04103. ▼

#### NEW ARCHIVES IN FORMATION

Saint John is the home of a new endeavor, the Archives for the Protection of Gay History and Literature (APGHL), aimed at collecting, recording, and protecting all aspects of gay and lesbian history and literature. They work on a donation basis and hope that people will send information about organizations and other items. APGHL, Box 6368, Station A, Saint John E2L 4R8. ▼

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A new study has found that a drug, initially tested as an influenza treatment, blocks the growth of the AIDS virus in the test tube. Researchers are preparing to test the drug on AIDS patients. The drug, ribavirin, has already been studied in patients with other illnesses and the lengthy animal and human safety testing has already been completed. Ribavirin is the second drug that has been shown in laboratory tests to prevent reproduction of the AIDS virus. The first drug, suramin, was identified in October. It is still undergoing testing. ▼

AIDS: A SCORECARD (Body Politic, Toronto)

As of November 13, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa has recorded a total of 147 adult cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in Canada. Of the current total, 97% are gay or bisexual men, of whom 41 have died. In the east: Quebec - 53 cases (38% of them gay or bisexual) - 20 deaths  
Nova Scotia - 3 cases (2 of them gay or bisexual) - 0 deaths  
Newfoundland - 1 case (heterosexual) - 0 deaths.

No cases have been reported in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island. The number of AIDS cases in the States is far greater than in Canada. The number in Massachusetts alone is reported at 140. No cases have yet been reported in the state of Maine. ▼

Lesbian-Gay GUIDE Lesbienne-Gai

- FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta.A., E3B 5G2. FLAGline - 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets Sundays, 7pm, So. Bangor Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union
- BANGOR: BAGLSC (Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition), POB 1805, 04401
- SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta.A., E2L 4K9
- MONCTON: GLM (Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton), CP 7102, Riverview, E1B 1V0
- HALIFAX: GAE (Gay Alliance for Equality), Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969
- NEWFOUNDLAND: GAIN, Box 1364, Sta.C., St. John's A1C 5N5
- WEBWORK: women's correspondence club, New England & Maritimes, Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619
- MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915
- OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper, \$12 for one year, POB 10744, Portland 04104
- MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE, statewide political action, POB 108, Yarmouth 04096
- NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736, Gay Phoneline/Télégai - 207/896-5888, Wed/mer, 7-9 pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)

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